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Title: Need to accord classical status to Kannada language.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (BELLARY): Please allow me to speak for two or three minutes because I have been waiting since this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is a written speech, you can give it.

*SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I wish to bring to the notice of the Government of India the problems and ignominy that are posed before Kannada people and Kannada language. The people of Karnataka are peace loving and self respect is more important for them. My Karnataka is the place of beautiful

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

gardens and rivers. It is popularly knows as the centre of famous poets. Sandal wood is abundant in Karnataka. The silicon city of India is the capital city of Karnataka which has most of the Information Technology companies flourishing for the last one decade.

Now, the entire state of Karnataka is celebrating "SUVARNA KARNATAKA" to commemorate the glorious moments of its unification on 1.11.1956. shockingly, on this auspicious occasion the Kannadigas and Kannada languages are being illtreated severely by the Government of India. I am mentioning this with deep anguish.

Kannadigas are peace loving people. At the same time I would like to make it clear that they donot keep quiet when their language and people are in trouble. They are prepared for any sacrifice. It was Kappagal Ramjan Sab from Bellary who sacrificed his life for the unification of Karnataka. In the same way Anajavadi Sanna Basavangowda rendered yeoman's service to retain Bellary in Karnataka by contesting in the election and winning.

Sir, It is my humble duty to remember those selfless, towering personalities who sacrificed for the unification of Karnataka.

The pride of establishing Veerashiva Vidyavardhaka Sanga Kannada school before Indian indepence goes to Bellary. Kannada language has a history of more than two thousand years. Kannada language is developing stronger and stronger amidst all adversities.

Ancient Kannada literature, Dasa literature, Modern literature, Dalita literature, Bandaya literature and other innovative literary movements have come up with great success.

Kannada language has been accorded seven Jnanapeetha awards (highest award in the country for literary works). Kuvempu, Bendre, Shivarama Karantha, Mastivenkatesh Iyengar, U.R. Anantha Murthy, V.K. Gokak, and Girish Karnad have brought laurels to kannad by bagging these highest literary awards. Karnataka is proud of these literary luminaries.

Bellary district has contributed its night in the field of literature. Those prominent writers who have enriched Kannada language hailing from Bellary are Shri Nagesh Shastri, Vyakarana Thirtha Sri Chandra Shekara Shastry, Bellary Raghava, Jolada Rashi Doddana Gowda, Bellary Beechi and others.

Daroji Eramma, though an illeterate, she can sing poems of ancient Kannada literature. G.S. Shivarudrappa has been accorded the coveted "RASTRAKAVI AWARD". G.S.S. along with K.S. Nissar Ahmed, G.P. Rajarathnam, K.S. Narasimha Swamy, Sashi Marulaiah and Kaiyyara Kinnarai of Kasaragod are serving the cause of Karnataka. Noted writer patil puttappa hails from my state Karnataka. He is second to none in fighting for the cause of Kannada.

This noble state of Karnataka is being insulted today. The Railway Ministry's recent circular has shocked all Kannadigas. It has degraded the Kannada language. According to that circular the Kannada name plates on the bogies have been removed and the name plates of Hindi and English have been retained can any one in this august House imagine this kind of treatment to a national language in the twenty first century? I demand that this circular should be withdrawn immediately. Infact, many agitations have started opposing this circular. This is the dishonour to all Kannadigas which cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

There is insult and ignominy for the Kannadigas in the railway departments also. They are not getting jobs in the railways. The Ministry should take urgent appropriate steps in this regard and Kannadigas should be given preference at least in Karnataka state.

Sir, Kannada literature has a history of more than two thousands years. Kannada words are found in Shilapadikarm, the most ancient Tamil Grammer book. Kannada words have been mentioned in the ancient greek literature. The word "Karnata" which means Kannada has been used in Ramajana and Mahabharata. This ancient language is being relegated to the back

ground and it is being insulted. The Government of India should wake up immediately and try to under stand the emotional and sentimental feelings of six crore Kannadigas. The Union Government should accord the status of classical language to Kannada without any further delay. Protests, agitations are taking place all over Karantaka demanding the status of classical language to Kannada. This may take an ugly turn and many untoward incidents may take place. Hence the centre should take appropriate steps to avoid all such incidents. Classical language statues should be accorded to Kannada forthwith. All the Railway Department name plates, signboards etc. should be in Kannada. The announcements for Karnataka trains should be made in Kannada in the railway stations for all the trains running from and to Karnataka. I thank you sir and conclude my speech.